



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Fights for Area Military Bases

*Pentagon to assess status of Fort McCoy and Volk Field in 2005 Department of Defense
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) considerations*

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) met with Department of Defense Undersecretary Phillip Grone today to make the case for continued training operations at Fort McCoy and Volk Field as the Pentagon conducts the latest round of regular assessments to determine the most efficient use of defense resources. Rep. Kind has been involved in cooperative efforts to develop a plan to position the two bases and the surrounding region as the best four-season region in the nation to train and care for the nation's defense personnel and their families.

"Fort McCoy and Volk Field have long-standing histories of training the best of our nation's military personnel, and they are vitally important in supporting our national defense objectives," Rep. Kind told Undersecretary Grone during the meeting. "Data show these facilities and the surrounding region to be one of the best four-season regions in the nation, and I urge you be fair in your assessment, basing realignment decisions on the merits of their utility."

The Fort McCoy and Volk Field Region consists of four counties in western Wisconsin (Juneau, La Crosse, Jackson and Monroe). Combined, the military bases employ 3,600 employees, with an annual payroll of \$107 million and a total estimated economic impact of \$628 million in the four-county region.

"In addition to the several advantages these facilities offer for training missions, they are integral parts of the regional culture and economy and the high quality of life enjoyed by both local residents and military families. Closing these bases would be a mistake," said Kind.

Rep. Kind has worked with Senator Kohl and Governor Doyle and other government officials, business leaders and local residents on the creation of a report to illustrate the strategic military benefits of the two bases and their positive impact on the region. This round of closures will be determined by the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission, which will issue its recommendations for base closings no later than May 16th, 2005.